

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-23 and 25-28 are pending in this present application. By this Reply, claims 2-3, 11-12 and 24 have been canceled. New claim 28 has been added. Claims 1, 13-14, 18-19, and 26 are independent.

The claims have been amended to correct minor informalities and to clarify the invention according to U.S. Patent Practice. These modifications do not add new matter and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

Claim Objection

In view of the cancellation of claim 2, the objection to claim 2 is moot and should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-14, and 19-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (US Patent 6,392,979) in view of Seong et al. (U.S. Patent 6,449,241). Claims 15-17, 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. in view of Seong et al. and Applicants disclose related art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the independent claims, the Examiner correctly acknowledges that Yamamoto et al. fails to teach the claimed features, e.g., “a thickness greater than 0.2 mm”. Therefore, to overcome these deficiencies of Yamamoto et al., the Examiner relies on Seong et al. However, Seong is not prior art to Applicants’ invention because the present application claims the priority benefit to U.S. application no. 9/334,894 (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,034) which was filed on June 6, 1999. The filing date of U.S. Application No. 9/334,894 is prior to the filing date (November 3, 1999) of the applied reference, Seong. Thus, Seong et al. does not qualify as a valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) or (e) and thus under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Accordingly, these rejections are improper and the claims are patentable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on these reasons are respectfully requested.

New Claim

Claim 28 further defines the invention as recited in claim 1 and is thus allowable at least for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable as discussed above.

Conclusion

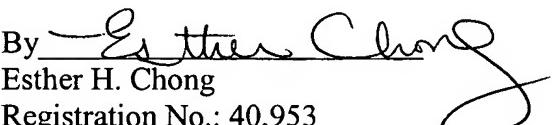
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong Reg. No. 40,953 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant